ground water development; and

(iv) providing facilities for research and training.

Decentralisation of Plan Formation in the Industrial Sector

*306. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to decentralise the very process of plan formation, particularly in the industrial sector;

(b) if so, what are the suggestions made by the experts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have examined their suggestions; and

(d) if so, the final decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAV SINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (d) It is the view of the Government that in areas of development which directly impinge on the living conditions of the majority of the people, the impulses and ideas of development should generate at local levels. As an on-going exercise of enlarging the scope of participation in the planning process at different levels and regions, Government is taking steps to strengthen and systematise multi-level planning—particularly at the District Level in relevant sectors including Small & Village Industries.

For determining the goals and for evolving the strategy and approach for industrial growth in the Eighth Plan, the Planning Commission has already initiated its exercise. Concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India, industry associations, State Governments and others are being appropriately associated with this exercise.

The report of the Working Group on District Planning has suggested that to make decentralised planning a success, capabilities for decentralised planning, right procedures, suitable structures, technical, administrative and attitudinal changes have to be brought about. They have also suggested that various initiatives and improvisations should be introduced cautiously, providing adequate time for assimilating them.

Legislation to audit the accounts of political parties

*307. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring forward legislation to audit the accounts of political parties or amend the existing law; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Various proposals for electoral reforms including auditing of accounts of political parties have been made to the Government by the Election Commission.

उत्तर प्रदेश के पहाड़ी क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम संबंधी समिति

*310. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश में पहाड़ी क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम संबंधी समिति ने कोई योजना तैयार की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश में पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के विकास तथा पिछड़ेपन को दूर करने के लिए सरकार की योजना क्या है ?

योजना मंत्री तथा कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री (श्री माधव सिंह सोलंकी) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होता ।

(ग) उत्तर प्रदेश के 8 पर्वतीय जिले पर्वतीय क्षेत्र विकास कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत शामिल हैं ।

Indian Personnel for Monitoring of Ceasefire between Iran and Iraq

*311. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.N. has approached India to provide personnel for monitoring on ceasefire between Iran and Iraq;

(b) if so, what is the response of the Government of India in regard thereto; and

(c) what are the names of the other foreign countries who have also been approached by the UN for personnel for the purpose and the reaction of those Governments in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have agreed to provide a contingent of 15 Army officers as requested by the UN Secretary General. The contingent will consist of one Brigadier, one Colonel and 13 officers of other ranks.

(c) The following countries have also agreed to provide personnel for the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group: Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Senegal, Zambia, Argentina, Australia, Finland, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Proposal to raise marriageable age of girls and boys

@*312. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI :

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise the marriageable age for boys and girls in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

@Previously starred Question No. 252 transferred from the 12th August, 1988.